

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 01792 300007Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /099 W

-----096761 010310Z /64

R 291630Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1273

INFO USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1792

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG, PINS

SUBJ: CUBAN CIRCULAR DIPLOMATIC NOTE: STORM WARNINGS

REF: LIBREVILLE 1763 (NOTAL), COTONOU 929

1. CUBAN DIP NOTE CITED REFTELS HAS CAUSED UPROAR IN SOME CIRCLES OF DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY, AND HAS NOW BEEN BROUGHT TO PRES BONGO'S ATTENTION BY FRENCH AMBASSADOR DELAUNEY. WHEN I CALLED ON BONGO MORNING JUNE 29 ON ANOTHER MATTER, I FOLLOWED DELAUNEY WHO TOLD ME HE HAD COPY WITH HIM. BEFORE I COULD HARDLY OPEN MY MOUTH, BONGO REFERRED TO NOTE. HE WAS ALMOST LITERALLY FURIOUS. HE SIMPLY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW "LITTLE MAN" (CUBAN AMBASSADOR) HAD NERVE TO CIRCULATE SUCH A NOTE IN THIRD COUNTRY EVEN THOUGH IT WAS MOFA STATEMENT, WHEN CASTRO HIMSELF HAD REFRAINED FROM USING SIMILAR LANGUAGE PARTICULARLY IN HIS REFERENCES TO AMERICANS AND PRESIDENT CARTER. HE HAD INSTRUCTED FONMIN MARTIN BONGO TO CALL IN CUBAN IMMEDIATELY, EXPRESS DISPLEASURE OF GOG WITH NOTE AND TELL CUBAN THAT IF THERE WAS ANY REPETITION OF INCIDENT, "HE WOULD BE SHOWN DOOR."

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PAGE 02 LIBREV 01792 300007Z

2. VARIETY OF MEMBERS OF DIP COMMUNITY WHICH MOSTLY COMPOSED OF REPS FROM MODERATE OR CONSERVATIVE COUNTRIES, HAVE OPENELY DEPLORED WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO HAVE BEEN CUBAN BAD TASTE AND VIOLATION OF THIRD COUNTRY RULE. I HAVE BEEN OFFERED COPIES OF NOTE FROM HALF-DOZEN EMBASSIES NOT TO MENTION BONGO HIMSELF. FRENCH AMBASSADOR, WHO EVENTUALLY

DID GET COPY OF HIS OWN, WAS PARTICULARLY INCENSED, AND
I AM REASONABLY SURE DECISION TO GIVE BONGO COPY WAS HIS.

3. COMMENT: I FEAR POOR CUBAN, WHO HAS ONLY JUST PRE-
SENTED HIS CREDENTIALS AND WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY UNDER ORDERS
TO CIRCULATE MOFA STATEMENT, (E.G., COTONOU 929), WILL BE
WONDERING WHAT HIT HIM AND THINK TWICE BEFORE TRYING IT AGAIN
HERE EVEN WHEN INSTRUCTED. TIENKEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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